

## **New Ecological Science Advice for Ecosystem Protection**

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The SAB Staff Office supports three scientific advisory committees: the Science Advisory Board (SAB), which provides advice to strengthen the scientific and technical basis for Agency decisions; the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), which advises the Agency on health and ecological assessments related to criteria air pollutants; and the Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis, which provides advice on the Agency's major analysis of costs and benefits associated with implementing the Clean Air Act.

Ecological science is an important focus of the activities of these advisory committees. In 2003, the SAB reorganized to provide a new structure for providing early, forward-looking advice and rigorous peer reviews of EPA technical and scientific work products, including ecological science work products, that directly impact major EPA policies and decisions. In 2004, the Council will establish a new Ecological Effects Subcommittee.

Over the past two years, the Board has drafted key reports in the areas of risk and benefits assessment, research planning, and assessing and reporting ecological conditions. It currently has underway advisory projects addressing the value of ecological systems and services, methods for ecosystem assessment, and more advice relating to reporting on environmental conditions.

The SAB's approach is to bring together scientists with the relevant breadth and depth of experience and expertise in different ecological sciences and the social sciences needed to advise on issues relevant to EPA's mission and environmental programs. Members of the Board and its Committees (and Panels) are drawn from academia, industry, federal, state, and tribal governments, research institutes, and non-governmental organizations (NGO).

The poster will highlight key SAB consultations, advisories, new initiatives, and their anticipated impacts. Examples include:

- A Framework for Assessing and Reporting on Ecological Condition
- Review of the "Report for the Environment"
- Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services
- Application of the Regional Vulnerability Assessment (ReVA) Integration Tool and Underlying Methods for Multi-Scale Decision Making
- Advice on how the Air Office Captures Cost-Benefits for Ecological Effects